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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

IN RE PACIFIC FERTILITY CENTER
LITIGATION

Case No. 3:18-cv-01586-JSC

**PROPOSED SPECIAL VERDICT
FORM (■■■.)**

Pretrial Conference: April 29, 2021
Trial Date: May 20, 2021

The Honorable Jacqueline Scott Corley

**Section I. Strict Products Liability—Manufacturing Defect
(Affirmative Defense—Misuse or Modification)¹**

We answer the questions submitted to us as follows:

1. Did Chart Inc. manufacture the MVE 808 cryogenic tank?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 1 is yes, then answer question 2. If you answered no, stop here, answer no further questions, and have the presiding juror sign and date this form.

2. Was the MVE 808 cryogenic tank misused or modified after it left Chart Inc.’s possession in a way that was so highly extraordinary that it was not reasonably foreseeable to Chart Inc.?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 2 is yes, then answer question 3. If you answered no, skip question 3 and answer question 4.

3. Was the misuse or modification the sole cause of the plaintiff’s harm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 3 is no, then answer question 4. If you answered yes, stop here and answer no further questions in Section I, and go to Section II.

4. Did the Tank 4 contain a manufacturing defect when it left Chart’s possession?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 4 is yes, then answer question 5. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section I, and go to Section II.

5. Was the Tank 4’s manufacturing defect a substantial factor in causing harm to the plaintiff?

☐ Yes ☐ No

¹ CACI VF-1200 and CACI VF-1201. Because product misuse or modification is alleged as a complete defense (CACI 1245), questions 2 and 3 of CACI VF-1201 are included after question 1. See CACI VF-1200’s “Directions for Use.”

If your answer to question 5 is yes, then answer question 6. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section I, and go to Section II.

6. Was PFC negligent?

_____ Yes _____ No

If your answer to question 6 is yes, then answer question 7. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 8.

7. Was PFC's negligence a substantial factor in causing plaintiff's harm?

_____ Yes _____ No

If your answer to question 7 is yes, then answer question 8. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 8.

8. What percentage of responsibility for plaintiff's harm do you assign to:

PFC: _____ %

Chart: _____ %

TOTAL 100%

Proceed to Section II.

**Section II. Strict Products Liability—Design Defect
(Affirmative Defense—Misuse or Modification)²**

We answer the questions submitted to us as follows:

1. Did Chart manufacture the Tank 4, the MVE 808 cryogenic tank?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 1 is yes, then answer question 2. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section II, and go to Section III.

2. Was the Tank 4 misused or modified after it left Chart's possession in a way that was so highly extraordinary that it was not reasonably foreseeable to Chart?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 2 is yes, then answer question 3. If you answered no, skip question 3 and answer question 4.

3. Was the misuse or modification the sole cause of the plaintiff's harm?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 3 is no, then answer question 4. If you answered yes, stop here and answer no further questions in Section II, and go to Section III.

4. Is the product, Tank 4, one about which an ordinary consumer can form reasonable minimum safety expectations?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If your answer to question 4 is yes, answer question 5. If your answer is no, skip question 5 and answer question 6.

5. Did Tank 4 fail to perform as safely as an ordinary consumer would have expected when used or

² CACI VF-1201 and CACI VF-1200. Because the negligence of PFC is at issue, questions 7 through 11 of CACI VF-1200 are added at the end. See CACI VF-1201 at "Directions for Use." Question 6 is based on CACI 1244 as permitted under *Johnson v. Honeywell Internat. Inc.*, 179 Cal. App. 4th 549, 558 n. 4. (2009).

misused in an intended or reasonably foreseeable way?³

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 5 is yes, answer question 6. If your answer is no, skip question 6 and answer question 7.

6. At the time of the plaintiff's injury, did PFC and its employees and agents because of their particular position, training, experience, knowledge, or skill, know or should they have known about the harm or danger caused by the MVE 808 cryogenic tank with the TEC3000 electronic controller?

____ Yes ____ No

Regardless of your answer to question 6, answer question 7.

7. Did the benefits of Tank 4's design outweigh the risks of the design?

____ Yes ____ No

If you answered no to question 6 and yes to question 7, stop here and answer no further questions in Section II, and go to Section III.

8. Was Tank 4's design a substantial factor in causing harm to the plaintiff?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 8 is yes, then answer question 9. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section II, and go to Section III.

9. Was PFC negligent?

____ Yes ____ No

³ Chart objects to this instruction and maintains that the proof will not warrant its submission to the jury.

If your answer to question 9 is yes, then answer question 10. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 11.

10. Was PFC's negligence a substantial factor in causing plaintiff's harm?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 10 is yes, then answer question 11. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 11.

11. What percentage of responsibility for plaintiff's harm do you assign to:

PFC: _____
%

Chart: _____
%

TOTAL 100%

Procede to Section III.

Section III. Negligent Failure to Recall or Retrofit⁴

1. Did Chart know or should it reasonably have known that Tank 4's TEC 3000 electronic controller was dangerous or was likely to be dangerous when used in a reasonably foreseeable manner?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 1 is yes, then answer question 2. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section III, and go to Section IV.

2. Did Chart become aware of this defect after the controller was sold?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 2 is yes, then answer question 3. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section III, and go to Section IV.

⁴ Based on CACI 1223 and modeled after CACI VF-1205 (Negligent Failure to Warn) and CACI VF-1200/1201 including the instructions on PFC's negligence.

3. Did Chart fail to recall or retrofit the controller?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 3 is yes, then answer question 4. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section III, and go to Section IV.

4. Would a reasonable manufacturer under the same or similar circumstances have recalled or retrofitted the tank's controller?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 4 is yes, then answer question 5. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section III, and go to Section IV.

5. Was Chart's failure to recall or retrofit the tank's controller a substantial factor in causing harm to plaintiff?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 5 is yes, then answer question 6. If you answered no, stop here and answer no further questions in Section III, and go to Section IV.

6. Was PFC negligent?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 6 is yes, then answer question 7. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 8.

7. Was PFC's negligence a substantial factor in causing plaintiff's harm?

____ Yes ____ No

If your answer to question 7 is yes, then answer question 8. If you answered no, insert the number zero next to PFC's name in question 8.

8. What percentage of responsibility for plaintiff's harm do you assign to:

PFC: _____
%

Chart:

%

TOTAL 100%

Proceed to Section IV.

Section IV. Compensatory Damages⁵

What are [REDACTED] damages?

1. Economic loss: Enter the amount below if you find that Chart is liable to plaintiff under the theories of Section I—Strict Liability (Manufacturing Defect); Section II—Strict Liability (Design Defect); or Section III—Negligence (Failure to Recall or Retrofit).

Value of two eggs damaged or /lost embryos: \$ _____

Past medical expenses incurred obtaining the two eggs: \$ _____

2. Noneconomic loss: Enter the amount below if you find that Chart is liable to plaintiff under the theories of Section I—Strict Liability (Manufacturing Defect) or Section II—Strict Liability (Design Defect).

Pain, suffering, and emotional distress: \$ _____

[REDACTED] TOTAL \$ _____

Proceed to Section V.

Section V. Punitive Damages⁶

1. Did Chart's failure to recall or retrofit Tank 4's controller constitute malice, oppression, or fraud?

⁵ CACI VF-3920 Damages on Multiple Legal Theories; *see also* CACI 3903L.

⁶ CACI VF-3902 through 3904. Chart objects to these instructions and maintains that the proof will not warrant their submission to the jury.

____ Yes ____ No

If you answered yes, then answer question 10. If you answered no, stop here, answer no further questions, and have the presiding juror sign and date this form.

2. Was the conduct constituting malice, oppression, or fraud committed by one or more officers, directors, or managing agents of Chart acting on behalf of Chart?

____ Yes ____ No

Proceed to the next question.

3. Did an agent or employee of Chart engage in the conduct with malice, oppression, or fraud?

____ Yes ____ No

If you answered yes, then answer question 4. If you answered no, stop here, answer no further questions, and have the presiding juror sign and date this form.

4. Did one or more officers, directors, or managing agents of Chart authorize this conduct?

____ Yes ____ No

Proceed to the next question.

5. Did one or more officers, directors, or managing agents of Chart know of this conduct and adopt or approve it after it occurred?

____ Yes ____ No

Signed: _____

Presiding Juror

Dated: _____

After this verdict form has been signed, notify the [clerk/bailiff/court attendant] that you are ready to present your verdict in the courtroom.

Dated: April 15, 2021

By: John J. Duffy
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Counsel for Defendant Chart, Inc.

FILER'S ATTESTATION

Pursuant to Civil L.R. 5-1(i)(3), regarding signatures, I, _____ attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained.

Dated: April 15, 2021
